

# Khaki-Clad Santa Passes Out New Stripes to 14 GIs

## GP Launches \$100,000 Anti-Sabotage Plan



TWO SEND '51 GREETINGS... While easterners would risk pneumonia if they were to attempt to build this kind of a New Year's greeting, Sammie Taylor of Harbor Hills, and Silvia Gaw, a Torrance High School majorette, merely risk getting a bit sprayed with the Pacific Ocean as they fashion a snowman—or rather a sandman near the surf at Torrance Beach. Photo by a lucky Herald photographer.

## New Construction Here Hits \$16,000,000 Mark

In a mad-home-sprint race to windup 1950, new home builders in Torrance this month rolled up a four million dollar building permit mark to send the year's new construction over the 16 million dollar mark—an all time high.

The actual figure for the year, \$16,363,172 is more than two times greater than the previous record of \$7,979,825 set in 1948, according to the records of Walter C. Bradford, city hall senior clerk.

**MORE YET**

The figure was compiled from the records as of Tuesday morning and do not include any additional permits issued yesterday or those to be issued during the two days remaining in this year.

Five builders during December have taken out permits for a total of 423 new homes and 115 garages.

Largest batch of permits was issued to the Torrance Gardens Inc. for 295 homes and 171 garages for a valuation of \$2,414,700. The new tract is under construction at Torrance and Crenshaw boulevards.

**OTHERS PLANNED**

Additional new homes planned by local subdividers include 45 houses and 12 garages to be constructed by the Haven Development Company for a total valuation of \$379,800.

James N. Starbird and Associates were granted \$475,096 in permits for 19 homes and 11 to be erected near Crenshaw and Redondo Beach boulevards.

K. Sande Semness, developer of the Pacific Hills tract in South Torrance, took out 19 home and 13 garage permits for a total valuation of \$154,000.

**IN NORTH TORRANCE**

Alondra Gardens Inc. subdividers of a tract of new homes located in North Torrance near Redondo Beach and Crenshaw boulevards was granted 45 home and 8 garage permits for a valuation of \$338,900.

Included in the December mark of \$4,106,932 were permits for individual, homes, rumpus rooms, industrial expansions, and new commercial buildings. The miscellaneous items totaled \$344,436.

Largest single permit granted a December was for \$59,500 to the Mayfair Creamery now under construction at 24th street and Western avenue.

## Hogan Home Judged Tops In Christmas Decorations

John F. Hogan was awarded first-place honors Christmas Eve in the home decoration contest sponsored by the Torrance Terrace Garden Club.

The colorful scene at the Hogan home at 1614 Juniper avenue showed a Santa Claus sliding down the chimney of a tiny home which was lighted with a small Christmas tree. Adding authenticity to the scene were miniature carolers who were grouped in song outside the windows of the small home.

The "Peace on Earth" motif won second-place honors for the William Speck home at 1511 Acacia avenue.

Brass planters were awarded to each of the first two winners Christmas Eve by Mrs. M. L. Hartley, president of the sponsoring garden club.

Receiving honorable mention in the contest were C. W. Thornton, of 17416 Fayamith avenue, and M. M. Schwab, 1508 Acacia avenue.

continue to operate the office just to serve the seven small communities which came under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles office, Woods automatically ended rent control in all areas served by the Los Angeles Board.

**COUNTY DECONTROLLED**

Rent control ended in other cities and for Los Angeles County unincorporated areas some months ago.

The end of rent control came as Woods, strongly expressing his objections to ending control of rents in the greater Los Angeles area, signed the document shortly after the President signed a resolution continuing rent control for other parts of the nation for an additional three months.

## Herald Printers Accept Contract Offered for '51

Acceptances of working agreements between the publisher of the Torrance Herald and all employee groups in the printing-publishing industry in the harbor area point the way to a very harmonious year ahead, commented Grover C. Whyte, publisher of the Torrance Herald.

Late last week members of the San Pedro Typographical Union No. 862, which has jurisdiction over composing room employees at the Torrance Herald, voted to accept a contract for

## One Out of Ten To Serve in Civilian Defense

Eventually one out of every ten citizens of the City of Torrance will be called upon to perform a specific duty under present Civilian Defense Plans, City Manager George W. Stevens told the Torrance City Council Tuesday night.

Reporting on the progress the city has made toward Civilian Defense and naming of department chiefs was included in the lengthy and comprehensive report handed the council by Stevens.

The report named the following to head the Torrance Disaster Council: Mayor Bob L.

Haggard, chairman; City Manager Stevens, commander; Police Chief John Stroh, vice-commander; (the following are Chiefs of Divisions), Police Chief Stroh, law and order; Fire Chief Jake Benner, fire; Dr. Kurt T. Shery, medical; Assistant to City Engineer John Patrick, public works; Water Superintendent William Stanger, utilities; Bus Superintendent Marshall Chamberlain, transportation; Arthur B. Smith, manager of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, communications; Personnel and Recruitment, not named; Mrs. Don Hyde, American Red

Cross. Stevens reported on what has been accomplished, saying: "The Law and Order Division has recruited, equipped and is training an Auxiliary Police Force." "The Fire Protection Division has selected and registered an Auxiliary Force. Classes in first aid have been started." "Eight First Aid Field Stations" have been selected for the City of Torrance and official acceptance is being processed, following which, doctors, nurses and aides will be assigned to each station.

"Public Works, Transportation and other Divisions are preparing their plans to include use of all Public Employees and facilities, together with those privately owned. Favorable cooperation is being received from all private industries approached." "The local Red Cross Chapter has been expanded and become more active. Their activities include classes in home nursing and first aid and the securing of blood for the Armed Forces. Still greater activities are expected as their organizational plans are completed." It is planned to distribute a

copy of the pamphlet "Survival Under Atomic Attack," the official United States Government booklet, to each family in the City of Torrance. "A carefully selected group of citizens will soon be named to form a Warden Service." "Additional classes will be held in First Aid. Classes will also be held in all phases of Civilian Defense, as instructors and teaching aides become available." "The recruitment and training of additional personnel for Police and Fire Auxiliary Forces and other specialized groups will be stepped up."

EDITED in Torrance — PRINTED in Torrance — OWNED by Torrance Folks — SINCE 1914



36th YEAR—No. 52

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1950

16 PAGES

## Engineer Battalion Promotes Local Men

Promotions came in bunches for the 578th Engineer Combat Battalion during December. It was declared yesterday by Lt. Col. Dallas I. Downs, battalion commander.

Twenty-eight men of the battalion were boosted one grade, including 14 soldiers of the Torrance area.

Torrance men on the year-end promotions were: Pfc. William E. Hughes, 3708 244th street, Walteria, to corporal; Sgt. Thomas E. Jones, 3020 Winlock drive, to sergeant first class; Sgt. Johnnie L. Pitts, 917 Potola avenue, to sergeant first class.

From private first class to corporal—Jack R. Garland, 1308 Crenshaw boulevard; Homer D. Armagost, 1117 W. 24th street; James W. Blackwell, 1317 Greenwood avenue; Mike J. Martinez, Box 602; Jack B. Rambo, 1663 W. 214th street; Robert B. Buchanan, 1507 W. 215th street; Alfred E. Hagelwood, 21730 Dolores street; Loren D. Steele, 1320 Coleta avenue; Quenon L. Wakefield, 1546 W. 20th street; and Grover R. Wilson, 4228 W. 179th place, from Lomita, Wyman L. Truman, 24403 Hendrick avenue.

The former Torrance National Guard unit is in combat training at Camp Cooke as division engineers for Southern California's 40th Infantry Division. Stationed at Torrance Ball Park before their induction into Federal service were Companies A and D. Headquarters and Service Company maintained their headquarters at Torrance Municipal Airport.

## Soldier Down In Plane Crash

A North Torrance soldier was among the 37 servicemen aboard a military C-54 transport plane which crashed last week on a high mountain in the Philippines, it was announced by the Military Air Transport Service.

He was Staff Sgt. Harold W. Landon, husband of Mrs. Harold Landon, of 4316 West 174th street. Sgt. Landon was assigned to a maintenance and supply group at the Clark Air Force base.

Air Force officials in the Philippines said last week that all 37 were believed dead, but air observers spotted three persons moving around the wreckage later, and hope was raised that the persons could have been survivors of the crash.

## Infant Dies Christmas Eve

Graveside services for four-month-old Constance Dianne Skeens, of 1011 Milton street, will be held at 11:30 this morning at the Roosevelt Memorial cemetery.

The infant, who died at the Harbor General Hospital on Christmas Eve, is survived by her parents; three sisters, Virginia, Naomi, and Dorothy; and two brothers, Clinton Howard, Jr., and David. Stone and Myers Mortuary is handling funeral arrangements.

## Only Two Injuries Mar Holidays; 24 Wets Jailed



DR. W. I. "BILL" LAUGHON ... Attack Fatal to Head of Medical Group

## Funeral Rites Today For Dr. 'Bill' Laughon

Final rites will be conducted this afternoon for Dr. W. I. "Bill" Laughon, well-known physician and senior partner of the Torrance Medical Group, who died in a local hospital at 4:30 p.m. Christmas Day. He was 62.

Dr. Laughon died five days after collapsing at his office, 1335 Post avenue, last Tuesday. He developed a kidney condition following a tooth extraction the day before and a score of specialists and consultants were unable to check the spread of the ailment. Drs. Kurt Shery and Eugene Cook, associates of the deceased, were with the doctor when he died.

**ACTIVE CIVICALLY**

Dr. Laughon, who recently moved into a new home at 375 Camino de las Colinas, where he lived with his wife, Phyrne, was

## Memorial Fund To Aid Hospital

A memorial fund, to purchase a piece of equipment for the free use of patients at the Torrance Memorial Hospital, has been started by a group of Dr. Laughon's friends and patients. Those who wish to contribute to the fund may do so by contacting Mrs. A. E. Ewalt, 1622 W. 215th street.

a member of the Bert S. Crossland Post, the American Legion, the Torrance Kiwanis Club and the Los Angeles County Medical Association. He was chairman of the Kiwanis Public Affairs Committee and was the club's representa-

Although Christmas celebrations within Torrance's 18.8 square miles were rather "damp" during the three-day holiday, the city, contrary to expectations and to the national trend, maintained a relatively accident-free record.

Only two persons were injured, none seriously, in holiday crashes, according to the records of Lucille Stroh, police record clerk.

**EXPENSIVE**

Drinking came a little expensive for 13 drunks arrested during the three-day yuletide celebration. They paid fines of \$25 each. Driving and drinking was even more costly to the seven drunk drivers arrested by Torrance Police. City Judge Otto B. Willett handed down fines ranging from \$125 to \$200 to the seven who elected to drink and drive.

Four persons were arrested for disturbing the peace—a situation arising from drinking, Miss Stroh said.

**WOMAN INJURED**

Among those injured was Elizabeth Ruth Grimsley, 39, of 4320 West 178th place. She received minor injuries and was the sole person hurt in an early-morning, six-car crash in the fog at Hawthorne boulevard and 174th street on December 23.

The second person injured was a three-and-a-half year-old girl, Dianne Carol Lynn, of 1646 West 218th street.

Dianne received minor injuries in a crash involving a hit and run driver, Frank Joseph Zebura, 49, of 1441 West 214th street who was later arrested and convicted of drunk driving and hit and run-involving injuries.

**WITNESSES HELP**

Witnesses said that Zebura rammed the rear of a car being driven by young Dianne's mother, Mrs. Avis Lynn, as the Lynn auto was stopped for a signal at Carson street and Western avenue on December 23. Officers John Maestri and Don Hamilton, acting on a license number supplied by witnesses, found Zebura bleeding from a cut lip and slumped over the wheel of his car at his home. City Judge Otto B. Willett levied a fine of \$200 or 60 days in the county jail on the drunk driving charge and imposed a 20-day suspended sentence on the hit and run charge.

**DRIVERS INVOLVED**

Other drivers involved in the six-car crash were: Jesse R. Runyon, 3915 Torrance boulevard; Edwin D. Grimsley, 4320 West 178th street; Montell R. Meacham, of Hawthorne; Eleanor B. Roloff, Raymond R. Snyder, and Roy H. Barela, the latter three of Redondo Beach.

## Attorney for Employers Council Injured in Fall

John T. Binkley, attorney for the Harbor Area Employers Council, sustained a broken leg and collar bone recently when thrown from a horse. The accident occurred at Victorville. Although badly handicapped, Binkley was able to appear in Superior Court this week in behalf of a client.

(Continued on Page 2)